

REMARKS

Claim 29 is amended to more particularly point out the relationships between the recited elements. Referring to Fig. 1, the claim recites a pump cell 2, a reference cell 4 spaced apart from the ground cell, and a sensor chamber 6 disposed between the pump cell and the ground cell, see paragraph 0015. The claim is further amended to clarify that the heating device 8 is adjacent the gas sensing arrangement for heating the gas sensing arrangement to an operating temperature. The claim is further amended to call for an isolation layer 30 between the ground plane electrode and the heating device, a feature previously recited in claim 30, now cancelled.

Applicants request that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn, and that the amendments be entered. The Office Action alleges that the new grounds for rejection under Section 112 were necessitated by Applicants' amendment. However, the recitation of the pump cell, reference cell, sensor chamber and heating device were found in the claims as filed and previously presented, and there has been no prior rejection to the language relative to these elements. Applicants only seek a fair opportunity to address the new grounds for rejection, which if they had been presented earlier, would have been addressed earlier. In the event that the finality is not withdrawn, it is requested that the amendments be entered nevertheless, if only for purposes of clarifying issues for appeal.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claims 29 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 as indefinite and incomplete.

The rejection alleges that it is unclear how the pump cell, the reference cell, the sensor cell, the heating device and the ground plane in claim 29 are arranged and connected. Claim 29 is amended to more particularly point out that the reference cell is spaced apart from the ground cell, and the sensor chamber is disposed between the pump cell and the ground cell, as shown in Fig. 1. The rejection also questions how the heating device and the gas sensing arrangement are arranged. The claim is amended to point out that the heating device is proximate to the gas sensing arrangement for heating the gas sensing arrangement to an operating temperature. Still further, the rejection points out that the claim does not recite an isolation layer, i.e., isolation layer 30 between the heating device and the ground plane electrode. The claim has been amended to call out the isolation layer, which was previously presented in claim 30, now cancelled.

No reason was specified for the rejections of claims 31-33, and it is believed that these claims were included because they are dependent upon a rejected base claim.

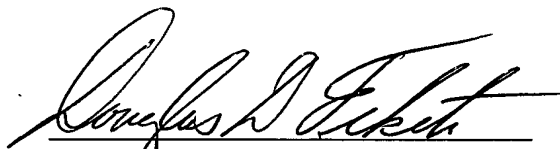
In view of these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn, and that the claim be allowed.

Conclusion

It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance. If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", written over a horizontal line.

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